

#13

From: judithlpc <judithlpc@aol.com>

To: john <john@LMB.org>

Subject: Re: Ralph's Story! A Personal Story of Tragedy, Healing, Hope, Forgiveness and LOVE!

Date: Thu, Sep 5, 2013 3:01 pm

Hi John,

Thank you so much! I am getting beyond what I ever thought positive responses to the film! It is so humbling and so amazing!

I would love to be there on the 11th, YES!!! Any help preparing me would be greatly appreciated.

Judith

-----Original Message-----

From: John Lindenmayer <john@LMB.org>

To: judithlpc <judithlpc@aol.com>

Sent: Wed, Sep 4, 2013 1:48 pm

Subject: Re: Ralph's Story! A Personal Story of Tragedy, Healing, Hope, Forgiveness and LOVE!

Hi Judith,

Congratulations on the movie release. Very powerful! What sort of response have you been receiving.

I just received word that our vulnerable roadway user legislation will receive a hearing on Wednesday, September 11 at 10:30 at the House Office Building in Lansing. In previous communications, you expressed interest in coming to Lansing to testify in support of the legislation. Would you be interested/available to come tell your story? I know its not a lot of notice, but we don't have much control over when these hearings get scheduled. I would obviously be available over the next week to help in anyway I can in preparing you. Pretty straight forward really, three to five minutes top, explaining why you support the legislation, similar to what you typed up below.

John Lindenmayer
Advocacy & Policy Director
League of Michigan Bicyclists

www.LMB.org
(517) 334-9100
416 S. Cedar St, Suite A
Lansing, MI 48912

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From: Judith Finneren <JudithLPC@aol.com>

Date: Saturday, July 6, 2013 Jul 6, 10:47 AM

To: John Lindenmayer <john@LMB.org>, Judith Finneren <JudithLPC@aol.com>

Subject: Ralph's Story! A Personal Story of Tragedy, Healing, Hope, Forgiveness and LOVE!

To whom it may concern:

My husband Ralph Dennis Finneren was killed July 27th, 2011 while riding his bicycle home from a part time job. He had three part time jobs, since General Motors was asking people to retire. He worked over 30 years for General Motors, retired and then worked as an auto parts delivery person for Auto Value, was a referee for soccer and was a Professor at Macomb Community College. On a balmy warm summer evening, as he was almost home a distracted driver hit and killed him on Giddings Rd. in Orion Twnshp! The driver received

minimal consequences and to this day I have to fight for everything, that is the minimal he was given. He was given 100 hrs. of community service. My two children and I were able to choose what that would be. We chose picking up trash on the highway with speeding cars going by, so he would get a feel for what Ralph may have felt when he was hit. Most of all, I asked one thing and is that he attend the , "Ride of Silence". The "Ride of Silence" takes place yearly, the third Wednesday of May every year at 7pm. It is a ride done in total silence to honor those killed while riding their bicycle. The young man, Brett Kaufman who hit and killed my Ralph did not attend in 2012, even though he was court ordered! He violated probation and was again court ordered to attend the, "Ride of Silence" in 2013. He did not attend again! I have not received any notification if he is being held accountable for his lack of action. The probation officer was notified the next morning of his non attendance! He is also court ordered to pay me restitution. I have received little. First of all, the penalties need to be much stiffer for drivers who hit , injure or kill a vulnerable road user! The justice system needs to hold them accountable! Why do I as a victim of this crime have to keep fighting? Education is of utmost importance! We need to educate all, drivers and bicyclists on how to , "Share the Road"! Our beautiful daughter, Holli was 24 yrs. old when this horrible tragedy occurred, her and her father were extremely close. My son was 29 yrs. old and lost a friend, a buddy, a companion. I lost a wonderful husband of almost 37 years! We had just begun to plan our retirement, a trip to Hawaii that Ralph was planning for us, sailing, biking, kayaking and so much more. Now my daughter does not have her dad to walk her down the aisle at her wedding, he did not get to see her graduate with her doctorate in physical therapy, nor does my son have a dad to talk cars with, share sailing with or support him in any way! I lost a love, a friend, a companion, the father of our children! Our lives will never be the same. I will never, ever forget getting the call from the hospital, stating your husband has been hit by a car, he is bleeding from his head and unresponsive! Neither will I forget my daughters gut wrenching scream when I told her what happened to her dad, or my sons dead silence when he heard. Please hold hearings on the upcoming bills. This is a serious matter that needs attention! I would love to talk with you in person and show you my documentary film "Ghostbike" that explain more of my personal story!